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Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71
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William Hubbard
Dockets Management Branch (HFA305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 106
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2353 '99 JUL 19 2:02

Re: Docket No. 98N-1083, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

Yesterday I was walking in my food co-op and I saw an information flyer regarding food irradiation. It shocked and disturbed me! I do not want to buy irradiated foods, and believe strongly that they should be labeled. By not labeling irradiated foods, you are taking away a person's right to choose what they eat. Much of the public does not want to eat irradiated foods, and even if they are unsure, would like to be informed as to what is in their food. I am extremely concerned about the prospect of weakening or eliminating the labeling requirements for irradiated food. Any foods, *or* foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be clearly labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the radura, the international symbol of irradiated food. If the food is not packaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale.

As other labels required by federal law, irradiation labels must be truthful and not misleading. Proposals to use euphemistic phrases like "cold pasteurization" are inappropriate because pasteurization is an entirely different process involving rapid heating and cooling. The terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained because they accurately portray the irradiation process. The radura symbol looks like a flower, not the symbol of irradiated foods! No one is going to understand the picture, and it is unacceptable. The radura symbol, without written disclosure, is not adequate.

Consumers have the right to know how their food has been processed. Please ensure that labeling requirements are strengthened, not weakened.

Sincerely,

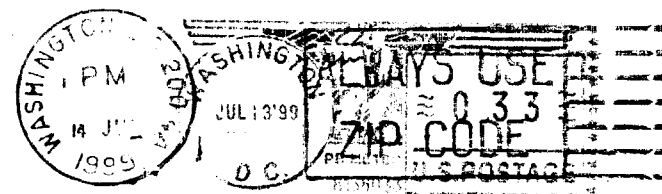


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